United Nations S/PRST/2004/9

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 April 2004

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4941st meeting of the Security Council, held on 6 April 2004, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the results of the Berlin Conference on Afghanistan, held on 31 March and 1 April 2004, co-chaired by the United Nations, Afghanistan, Germany and Japan. The Council thanks Afghanistan and Germany for jointly hosting this event, an important milestone on the way to a secure, stable, free, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan.

"The Council expresses its full support for the commitment of Afghanistan and the international community to successfully complete the implementation of the Bonn Agreement and to continue the transition process in Afghanistan through a lasting partnership, thus reflecting a model for a common endeavour of the international community in its fight against terrorism.

"The Security Council endorses the Berlin Declaration and stresses the relevance of the Workplan of the Afghan Government, the Progress Report and the Berlin Declaration on Counter-Narcotics, annexed to the Berlin Declaration, and welcomes the significant financial multiyear commitments made by the international donor community.

"The Security Council in particular expresses full support for the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to pursue the necessary reform steps and actions as outlined in the Workplan.

"The Security Council welcomes the announcement of President Karzai to hold direct presidential and parliamentary elections by September of this year. The Council stresses the importance of a secure environment for free, fair and credible democratic elections, and that to this end further efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and of the international community are needed.

"The Security Council welcomes in this regard the decision taken by the President of Afghanistan to implement vigorously the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme, in particular to intensify it ahead of the 2004 elections, and to continue the formation of the Afghan National Army and the National Police.

04-30013 (E) 060404

"The Council also acknowledges the commitment by NATO to expand the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by establishing five additional Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) by summer 2004 and further PRTs thereafter, as well as the readiness of ISAF and the Operation Enduring Freedom to assist in securing the conduct of elections.

"The Security Council welcomes the commitments totalling US$ 8.2 bn for the fiscal years March 2004 — March 2007 made by participants at the Berlin Conference for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan and stresses the importance with increasing absorption capacity for a growing share of this assistance to be channelled through the Afghan budget as direct budget support or as contributions to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) and to the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA).

"The Security Council stresses that opium poppy-cultivation, drug production and trafficking pose a serious threat to the rule of law and development in Afghanistan as well as to international security, and that therefore Afghanistan and the international community shall endeavour to reduce and eventually eliminate this threat, including through the development of economic alternatives. The Council reiterates the importance of increased cooperation among neighbouring states and countries along trafficking routes to strengthen anti-narcotic controls.

"The Security Council takes note of the appeal of President Karzai at the Berlin Conference for additionally needed international support in countering narcotics. The Council refers in this context to the necessary implementation of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy and the Counter Narcotics Action Plans in the areas of law enforcement, judicial reform, alternative livelihoods, demand reduction and public awareness. The Security Council calls upon Member States to support the implementation of these Action Plans. Afghanistan needs both human and financial resources to tackle this problem.

"The Security Council welcomes in particular the Berlin Declaration on Counter-Narcotics within the Framework of the Kabul Good Neighbourly Relations Declaration, signed by Afghanistan and its neighbours, as well as the planned Conference on Regional Police Cooperation to be held in Doha on 18 and 19 May 2004.

"The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to include in his future reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation in Afghanistan, in addition to the information on implementation of the Bonn Agreement, chapters on progress achieved in the implementation of the Berlin Declaration, the Workplan of the Afghan Government and in the promotion of regional and international cooperation with Afghanistan.

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the actions taken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and reiterates the central and impartial role of the United Nations in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."